GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
PROMOTION OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for promotion of bio-technology in the field of agriculture, health care, industry and human resource development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made so far and further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.273 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2007 REGARDING PROMOTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

(a) to (c) Yes sir, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology established in 1986, has the mandate to promote biotechnology applications in agriculture, health care, animal husbandry, environmental and biodiversity protection and biotech industry. Besides, the Department of Science & Technology, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Council for Scientific Industrial Research and Indian Council for Medical Research also supplement the efforts. To promote biotechnology, various schemes/projects have been launched for human resource development; establishment of centers of excellence and sophisticated biotech facilities; support to research and development projects; and technology development, validation, transfer and commercialization. Public-private partnership for strengthening academia-industry linkages, promotion of biotech industrial R&D have also been undertaken.

The achievements of the various programmes and projects are available in detail in the Annual Reports of the Department of Biotechnology posted at the website: www.dbtindia.nic.in. The biotechnology industry is growing about 35-40% per annum for last five years. The biotechnology sector is also developing at a satisfactory rate in terms of skilled human resource, infrastructure, patents, publications and product development. Some significant products/technologies developed include: vaccines and diagnostics for communicable diseases, bio-pharmaceuticals, genetically modified crops, biopesticides, biofertilisers, large scale tissue culture production technologies of spices, tree and woody species; bioremediation for removal of environmental pollutants; gene-banks and repositories for conservation of biodiversity and technologies for production of elite clones of animals. Human resource development is a main thrust of this department with a support to post-graduate training and education at 74 universities/institutions, fellowships for M.Sc, Ph,.D and post doctoral students, national overseas short-term/long-term fellowships as well as awards for career development. International research and development have been forged with 20 countries apart from Multilateral Collaborations with ASEAN, SAARC and G-15 countries. In order to fully realize the potential of biotechnology in India and to be competitive globally, recently, a National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been formulated in consultation with all the concerned stakeholders, ministries / departments for major expansion in human resource development, industrial promotion and development, sectoral R&D for technology development, establishment of new institutes in cutting edge areas of biotechnology and streamlining of regulatory system. Efforts have already been made to implement several programmes envisaged in the strategy.